



FEDERACIÓN  
LUTERANA MUNDIAL  
AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

Pastoral letter to the:  
Lutheran World Federation (FLM)  
member churches in  
Latin America and the Caribbean.

August 31st, 2020

Dear brothers and dear sisters

The grace of God be with you!

The entire world is going through a new pandemic. Once again, the entire creation groans in labor pain.

Suddenly, in the middle of intensified production, that does not recognize limits; a mutating virus transmitted from animals to humans became a tragedy of global dimensions. Nature is teaching us a hard lesson. Rapidly, the world became smaller. We are more interconnected and interdependent than we thought. We rediscovered our humanity and all its inherent contradictions. The pandemic reveals the inequalities. It gives us proof of a profound crisis regarding the current neoliberal economic model, the inadequacy of public policies, and the crisis of the States intended to safeguard what is common good and social justice.

The coronavirus does not respect anyone and the impact in the populations is uneven. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the living conditions worsened. Hundreds of thousands of persons die daily and millions are sick; this speaks of disparities, violence, and injustices. Without warning, from one moment to the other, the sources of work for the daily bread are closed: factories, shops, tourism, and the streets. Recreation and meeting areas are closed. Houses and shelters are closed, and even the churches are closed.

So, it must be said that there are very few social experiences of global nature that have been able to produce imbalances, ruptures, and an aggressive arise of uncertainty such as the one we are experiencing today.

However, in the middle of this fragility, when everything seems to collapse, the experience of faith arises to say, "Where will my help come from? My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" Psalm 121.

Today, it is crucial to live and experience God's grace. In humble recognition that no one is saved through own merits, grace invites to abandon all unlimited desires for omnipotence and to embrace the cross. To recognize the obstacles that increases suffering in order to find ways for new life. Today's reality challenges us to return to

theological concepts such as the personal and structural sins that, at this moment, reveal its cruel and terrifying face.

The present and future must be one of hospitality and communion. We have to show that we recognize and value in each persons, without distinctions, the opportunity to collaborate to build a more humane, egalitarian, and ecological society.

It is a time to pray. We pray for the sick, for persons that the medical arena, for persons suffering the loss of their beloved ones, for scientists looking for a vaccine, for the essential workers doing their job in the midst of the pandemic, for our authorities call to care for populations, for women and girls who suffer violence, for indigenous populations plunged in the oblivion, for persons living with daily income and cannot have bread, for migrants who are rejected wherever they go, for the elderly that are unprotected, for young people hoping to meet friends and regain joy, for children wanting to run on the parks, and for men and women that need to work and enjoy life. It is time to pray for those who offer their time and gifts to persons in need. Pray for our churches and their leaders. Pray, because being united in prayer, faith multiplies among us and we are certain that the Lord covers us with his hands.

May the word of Christ comfort us and keep us in God's peace, may it give us the serenity we need in these times of pandemic full of pain, loss, affliction, uncertainty and suffering. May God give us wisdom and inspire us to witness life through attitudes that express mercy and love arising from faith in Him!

It is a propitious time for our Lutheran communities spread throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to be instruments at the service of God, sharing the proclamation of the Gospel and the bread, caring and renewing hope in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit assist and guide us. Amen

Leaders in decision-making positions  
LWF member churches

Copy:  
Office of the General Secretary - FLM